

Note from the Codifier: The OAH website includes notices and the text of proposed temporary rules as required by G.S. 150B-21.1(a1). Prior to the agency adopting the temporary rule, the agency must hold a public hearing no less than five days after the rule and notice have been published and must accept comments for at least 15 business days.
For questions, you may contact the Office of Administrative Hearings at 984-236-1850 or email oah.postmaster@oah.nc.gov.

TITLE 15A – DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Notice is hereby given in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.1(a3) that the Wildlife Resources Commission intends to amend the rule cited as 15A NCAC 10C .0425.

Codifier of Rules received for publication the following notice and proposed temporary rule(s) on: February 19, 2026.

Public Hearing:

Date: March 17, 2026

Time: 2:00 P.M.

Location: Virtual public hearing via Zoom. Pre-registration is required: https://ncwildlife.org.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_V13xYe2ARGqtzSFuoUr4dA, or join by phone toll free: (833) 568-8864, Webinar ID: 160 312 8735

Date: March 10, 2026

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Location: N.C. Cooperative Extension, Lenoir County Center, 1791 NC-11, Kinston, NC 28504

Reason for Proposed Temporary Action: G.S. 150B-21.1(a)(7) b. and c. The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) will issue a proclamation modifying sheepshead size and creel limit for recreational and commercial harvest in joint and coastal fishing waters. The proposed amendments will decrease the daily creel limit from 10 to five fish and increase the minimum size from 10 to 14 inches in Inland Fishing Waters and Joint Fishing Waters (hook-and-line) to be consistent with the anticipated NCDMF proclamation.

Comment Procedures: Comments from the public shall be directed to: Rulemaking Coordinator, 1701 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699; email regulations@ncwildlife.gov. The comment period begins March 2, 2026 and ends March 31, 2026.

CHAPTER 10 - WILDLIFE RESOURCES AND WATER SAFETY

SUBCHAPTER 10C - INLAND FISHING REGULATIONS

SECTION .0400 – NONGAME FISH IN INLAND FISHING WATERS

15A NCAC 10C .0425 SHEEPSHEAD

- (a) The daily creel limit for sheepshead is ~~40~~ 5 fish.
- (b) The minimum size limit is ~~40~~ 14 inches.
- (c) There is no closed season.
- (d) Sheepshead shall not be sold.

Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292; 113-304; 113-305.